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E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/6/19  
TAGS: [CVIS](#) [KCOR](#) [KCRM](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [NU](#) [EC](#)  
SUBJECT: Visas Donkey - Corruption 212(f) Visa Revocation: Jaime Aquilino HURTADO Vaca (S/NF)

Classified by Ambassador Heather Hodges. Reason: 1.4 b and d.

11. (U) This cable replaces Quito 561, which was cancelled. Please disregard the earlier cable.

12. (S/NF) Embassy Quito is seeking a security advisory opinion under Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Presidential Proclamation 7750, suspending the entry into the United States and revoking the visas of the above Ecuadorian citizen for public corruption as defined in Section 1, Paragraphs (a) and (c) of the Proclamation (namely for misappropriation of public funds and interference with Ecuador's public processes). This corruption had an adverse effect on U.S. national interests mentioned in Section 4 of the Proclamation (namely the stability of democratic nations and institutions, the security of the United States against transnational crime and terrorism, U.S. foreign assistance goals, and the international economic activities of U.S. businesses). Jaime Aquilino HURTADO Vaca has used his office as Commander of the National Police and personal influence to extort cash and property, misappropriate public funds, facilitate human trafficking, and obstruct the investigation and prosecution of corrupt colleagues.

Background  
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13. (C) Corruption among Ecuadorian National Police officers is widespread and well-known. Broad sections of the public report paying bribes re  
Summary of Corrupt Acts  
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14. (S/NF) Jaime Hurtado was Commanding General of the ENP from April 2008 to June 2009. In 2007 and 2008 he was Inspector General of the ENP a  
Corrupt Acts, In Chronological Order  
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15. (S/NF) In 2005, a taxi union in the city of Cuenca filed a formal complaint alleging extortion by Hurtado. A close colleague of Hurtado's, Major Bolivar VILLOTA, who was serving in Cuenca at the same time, was later transferred to a command position in the Transit Police in the town of Sangolqui. After numerous complaints of corruption committed by Villota in his new position, the ENP's Inspector General's office began an undercover investigation of Villota in 2006 which reportedly confirmed the previous allegations of corruption by Hurtado and Villota. Investigators also later found that two lower-ranking accomplices of Villota were involved in a scheme re-documenting and re-tagging stolen vehicles. Hurtado eventually learned of the investigation, and ordered the undercover officer conducting it removed and transferred.

16. (S/NF) In September 2007, Villota was arrested by ENP officers on corruption charges. ENP officers seized over \$20,000 in cash, and a compu

17. (S/NF) Although he was charged with a variety of criminal acts under Ecuadorian law following his arrest in 2007, Villota was not administratively sanctioned or removed from the ENP. Hurtado was serving as the ENP's Inspector General during this time period and was the responsible authority to sign paperwork removing Villota from the force. In late 2007 and early 2008, allegations of additional corrupt activities by Hurtado surfaced in an ENP investigation of other lower-ranking ENP officers. These officers were accused of stealing from official ENP funds and influence-peddling, and the investigation revealed that Hurtado had influence over them. ENP investigators also heard allegations that Hurtado had illegally acquired a property in Ecuador's Cotopaxi province by sending ENP officers who threatened the legal owner into signing over the property to Hurtado.

18. (S/NF) In April 2008, Hurtado was appointed Commanding General of the ENP. (Note: Hurtado's corrupt activities were so widely known within

19. (S/NF) Also in late January 2009, Hurtado learned that General Juan Francisco SOSA, the director of the ENP's Judicial Police, had begun a formal investigation into Hurtado's activities. In early February 2009, Hurtado removed Sosa from his position as Judicial Police commander and demoted him to the Quito Metropolitan District Chief position in order to derail the investigation. Hurtado also fired the officer directly in charge of the investigation.

110. (S/NF) In early March 2009, ENP Major Pedro LLERENA, who worked in the ENP's personnel office, was discovered to have been using his posit  
Individual Corrupt Acts per Presidential Proclamation 7750  
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Section 1(a) - Solicitation or Acceptance of Any Article of Monetary Value, or Other Benefit, in Exchange for Any Act or Omission in the Performance of Public Functions

111. (S/NF) The Embassy has reports from multiple sources alleging that Hurtado repeatedly extorted bribes from ENP colleagues in exchange for protecting them within the institution or facilitating their activities. Embassy reports indicate that in exchange for payments, Hurtado participated in schemes extorting bribes from a taxi union, facilitating the re-sale of stolen vehicles, stealing ENP public funds, assisting a human trafficking organization, and manipulating the ENP's assignment processes.

Section 1(c) - Interference with Public Process

112. (S/NF) In his multiple supervisory positions within the ENP, Hurtado used his power to prevent the investigation or sanctioning of corrupt colleagues. On more than one occasion this involved having investigators removed from their positions and demoted. Embassy reports show that he also assisted in corrupt practices related to

the ENP assignment processes.

#### Serious Adverse Effects on U.S. National Interest

¶13. (SBU) The acts of soliciting bribes and of interference in public processes described here have had serious adverse effects on the following categories of U.S. interests specified in Section 4 of the Proclamation: stability of democratic institutions and nations, the security of the United States against transnational crime and terrorism, U.S. foreign assistance goals, and the international economic activity of U.S. businesses.

#### Stability of Democratic Institutions

¶14. (C) Strengthening democratic stability and institutions is one of the Embassy's top priorities. Justice and the rule of law are fundaments

#### Security of the United States against Transnational Crime and Terrorism

¶15. (C) A police force free of corruption is necessary to investigate and prosecute those guilty of money laundering, human trafficking, and terrorism--all issues with a direct impact on U.S. homeland security. Several U.S. Government agencies cooperate with their Ecuadorian counterparts in fighting transnational crime and terrorism. The acts described in this cable have diminished the effectiveness of these efforts, making it more likely that criminals and terrorists will go undetected and unpunished. In addition, the subject of this cable has provided assistance and protection to human traffickers, creating opportunities for criminals and terrorists to enter the U.S.

#### U.S. Foreign Assistance Goals

¶16. (C) U.S. Government assistance to Ecuador through judicial reform and anti-corruption programs has totaled over \$14 million in the past 9 years. The corrupt activities described above directly damage the Mission's work in these areas. The Mission's economic growth programs are also subverted when high quality foreign investment is driven away by the type of corrupt interference in the rule of law that the subject of this cable promotes.

#### International Activity of U.S. Businesses

¶17. (C) The corrupt activities described in this cable hamper U.S. investment in Ecuador. U.S. investors are reluctant to risk their resources in Ecuador knowing that they could be targeted by corrupt law enforcement officials. The activities described here have demonstrably and directly harmed the credibility of Ecuador's law enforcement system, with attendant direct damage to the interests of all those subject to Ecuadorian law, whatever their nationality. The impunity with which prominent police officials are able to extort bribes and misappropriate public funds is a clear menace to any U.S. company doing business in Ecuador.

#### Family and Visa Information

¶18. (C) Hurtado has two family members who the Embassy believes should be included in a 212f decision. These are: wife Gioconda Moemi MARTINEZ Duque (DOB: 03/12/52) and daughter Maria Esther HURTADO Martinez (DOB: 09/10/80). Since it is believed that Hurtado has been engaged in corrupt acts since the early 1990s, the Embassy feels that both of these individuals likely benefited from his illicit earnings. Hurtado and his family members all have valid B1/B2 visas issued in Quito on June 17, 2008. The visas will expire on June 16, 2013.

Hodges